



TO: Chair Smith Warner, Vice-Chair Drazen, Vice-Chair Holvey, and Members of the Committee
FROM: Disability Rights Oregon
DATE: February 22, 2021
RE: HB 3264: Example of Inaccurate, Incomprehensible, and Misleading Captioning of Legislative Hearings

EXAMPLE OF CAPTIONING PROBLEMS

February 22, 2021, 8:00AM, Remote C
 Oregon Legislature in House Committee on Behavioral Health

The passage below is a portion of the testimony of a physician who spoke on HB 3037 regarding mental health services, immediately prior to the testimony on HB 2585, a bill involving accessible mental health services for people who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind. Steven Brown, from the Oregon Association of the Deaf, was waiting to testify on HB 2585. He is visible on screen throughout the testimony from this physician. An ASL interpreter had been requested and appeared in time for Mr. Brown's the testimony on HB 2585, but was not present for this portion of the hearing.

The combination of no ASL interpreter and incomprehensible captioning denied effective communication to any Deaf participant in the hearing.

Included below is the captioning displayed on the screen¹ and a transcript prepared by Disability Rights Oregon's staff. The physician testifying, Dr. Chandragiri, had a relatively light accent in speaking, but was certainly easily understood in his testimony for the hearing population. While a person who is not familiar with different accents might not have caught his every word, they certainly would understand the general thrust of his testimony better than the captioning provided.

<u>OREGON LEGISLATURE CAPTIONING OF DR. CHANDRAGIRI'S TESTIMONY</u>	<u>ACCURATE TRANSCRIPT OF DR. CHANDRAGIRI TESTIMONY</u>
<p>"My name is sought to a gender guinea. I live in Salem Oregon Marion County. And most of the chain of Salem by the school board. And the second largest school district in our state and I'm a medical staff at Salem hospital Salem Oregon. In addition mechanical look extends from Harney County to Douglas County. I'm here to testify in support of House bill 3027.</p>	<p>"My name is Satya Chandragiri. I live in Salem, Oregon, Marion County. I am also the chair of Salem-Keizer School Board, and we are the second largest school district in our state. And I am on medical staff at Salem Hospital, Salem Oregon. In addition, my clinical work extends from Harney County to Douglas County. I'm here to testify in</p>

¹ See <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/mediaplayer/?clientID=4879615486&eventID=2021021299> (from roughly 18:15 to 20:00).

"And thank you for allowing me to share this doesn't need a new to say begin the leading cause of death. In that age group we're doing accident or debts in Oregon. The natives su say government compared to 2003. We saw what appeared like to clusters of you to 7 million County we lost trying to be used in suicide at the UN initially we thought 16 in only 42% of multnomah County's population. Why don't call in Salem I have a valued and children as young as 12 years old, what brought up to suicide by hanging. value and patients admitted falling since evidence in one we can call.

"Most of them are you what it is estimated that put every completed you. Senate Dennis I don't 5200 suicide attempts. In 2018 October known but we saw the second cluster of you to say that my County the last 2 you just to cite 17 days about from Sprague high School in South Salem witches my soul. In our school district we lost nearly 7 due to suicide that and I had accompanied one of those students hasn't been in shipping own along with my son and his Jeff Lucas Seattle but just clinic."

support of House bill 3037. And thank you for allowing me to share this.

"In 2018 youth suicide became the leading cause of death in that age group, and overtook accidental deaths in Oregon. The rate of suicide doubled compared to 2003. We saw what appeared like two clusters of youth suicide in Marion County. We lost 20 youth to suicide that year. Initially we thought 16, in only 42% of Multnomah County's population. While on call in Salem Hospital I have evaluated children as young as 12 years old who were brought after suicide attempts by hanging. During a call in February I had to evaluate 10 patients admitted after suicide attempts in one weekend call. Most of them were youth. It is estimated that for every completed youth suicide there is around 50 to 100 suicide attempts.

"In 2018, October-November, we saw the second cluster of youth suicide in my county. We lost two youth to suicide 17 days apart from Sprague High School in South Salem, which is my zone. In our school district we lost nearly seven youth to suicide that year. And I had accompanied one of those students as a parent chaperone, along with my son and his jazz group to Seattle for a jazz clinic."